



NOVEMBER, 2009

# SCA

SHELTER ROCK SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*It has been a terrific start to the school year at Shelter Rock Elementary School. From the everyday activities of reading, writing, math, library, recess, and getting "stickers" for their class from Mr. Geczik, to the special activities such as Heroes Week, Red Ribbon Week, the exciting Halloween festivities, and enrichment programs, our children are all having a vibrant educational experience at SR.*

*As parents and guardians it is important we show our children that we value education through our active involvement in the schools. Attend a Parent Council, Board of Education or Open SCA Executive Board meeting; volunteer on an SCA committee or for lunch duty; participate in all District votes. Simply collecting Boxtops4Education shows your child that you are interested in their education and in their school.*

*We are grateful to all of the amazingly talented parents who are involved at Shelter Rock, and contribute their time and talent in many ways, big and small. Parent volunteers have already coordinated Heroes' Week, Red Ribbon Week, Photo Day, the Student Directory and Class Lists, lunch duty, Enrichment Programming, Halloween Party, the Fall Luncheon, the SCA Highlights e-mail, as well as provide us with the bagels and coffee at the Parent Council meetings. Volunteers created this newsletter, writing copy, doing layout and taking pictures. Please take a minute to thank the over 125 parents involved in these committees.*

*We hope that you will reach out to us if you want further information about becoming involved in our school community.*

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[www.manhassetsca.org/ShelterRock/ShelterRock.html](http://www.manhassetsca.org/ShelterRock/ShelterRock.html)

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Shelter Rock Media Center

The Shelter Rock Media Center has taken on a new look this school year, with a faux slate floor, a fresh paint job, and a redesigned layout. Central to this change is a gift from the SCA: the new circulation desk, half the size of the old desk. This new desk enabled the creation of two distinct instructional spaces: one a multimedia/SmartBoard area, the other a research area with computers and reference materials. Skylights, which had long been hidden by bookcases, have been revealed to provide natural light for the classroom space. A reading nook has been created near the entrance area, and has proved to be very popular with the students. It feels like a whole new library!

In addition, the books have been reorganized, and the primary materials and upper/middle grade materials have been separated making it much easier for the younger children to find books on their reading level. The easy non-fiction books are much more easily accessible which is a big hit with the younger students. Mrs. Rowland, our librarian, wants to get children hooked on the excitement of the library and the love of books. When she teaches the younger children she

reads to them in the story corner, and then reinforces the lesson through the use of technology. The older children learn information literacy and research skills such as locating information through our databases and in print resources, taking notes in their own words, creating a Google "search string", evaluating websites, searching the OPAC and public library databases, writing a bibliography, and of course, learning the basics about the Dewey Decimal System. All of the students are encouraged to visit the library often to check out books for independent reading.

Spending time in the Shelter Rock Media Center one can see that it is a place where the children feel welcomed, and where their love for books and research is nurtured and fortified.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Grand Opening of the Shelter Rock Activity Room

**Hours Open:** Indoor Recess.

**Activities Available:** Great Games, many of those that were requested by Shelter Rock students as well as an arts and crafts table. In addition, we are asking parents to help lead activities during recess, both outside as well as indoor. The children love your participation!

### Chilly Weather

As the weather begins to cool down, please consider sending in a labeled sweatshirt or sweater which can be left at school for days when it is

needed. Please have your children wear appropriate footwear (*no flip flops*) to play outside for safety reasons.

### Flu Virus

With the expected rise in flu virus this year, Manhasset has taken extra precautions to keep our children safe. Proper hand washing techniques as well as "kid-safe" hand sanitizers are being used. Please consult your child's physician regarding flu and vaccines as they are arriving in doctor's offices at this time. No vaccines will be given out at school. If your child is ill, please call the attendance office and explain why your child is out and what symptoms they have (ex. fever, cough, etc.). This information is reported so that illnesses can be tracked. No child should be sent back to school unless



they are fever free (without having taken any medication) for a full 24 hours.

### Physicals

Physicals are due for K, 2, 4 and any new entrants. The school physician will be required to give a physical if one is not handed in. Please note the physical asks for BMI (Body Mass Index). This formula, expressed as a percentage, gives a measure of body fat based on height and weight. You may receive a form for your physician to fill out if this was not submitted on your child's physical. NY State is asking for this information and the school is required to include it. You can opt out of reporting the BMI, but you must sign a form first. Please call the Health Office for more information.



# GRADE LEVEL HIGHLIGHTS

**K**indergarten is off to a very busy start! The children are adjusting and making new friends. They have already been taught the importance of handling their emotions in a good way by "Stopping, breathing to count of five, and thinking about what to do". In "Kindergarten Play Everyday" they are learning how to have a healthy lifestyle by eating the right foods, exercising, and acting appropriately with others. In Science, they learned how apples grow and had an apple tasting contest! The Kindergartners' first field trip was to Green Meadows Farm where they interacted with animals and picked a pumpkin to bring home! The new Foundations Program is designed to help the children learn how to read and spell. The children also make weekly trips to the library to choose a book to bring home. It is all new and very exciting for the Kindergartners.

**1**The First graders are studying differences; the similarities and differences between different people, different animals, and the difference between olden times and today. They had a "pumpkin exploration" where they cut open a pumpkin (with the help of an adult!) and counted the number of seeds inside. They had an apple tasting and charted the types of apples preferred by the children. They have learned about Johnny Appleseed, the seasons, Columbus Day and Veterans Day. They are doing all this while improving their reading and math skills. First graders are very busy!

**2**The second grade is off to a fabulous start. They are working with a new reading series called "Reading Street". In science they are learning about the weather (*seasons, clouds, air, water cycle*). In social studies they are studying communities, identifying urban, rural and suburban. Math is reviewing what they know, fact families and doubles facts. They will be taking an exciting trip in November to see the "Paper Bag Players" at Hofstra.

**3**The third graders have begun their new Reading Street reading program. The program has been focusing on building their vocabulary, varying sentence structure and reading comprehension. The children went on their first field trip to the Planting Fields Arboretum as part of their Science unit on the study of plants and trees. During the field trip, the children enjoyed identifying different types of trees and leaves. In Social Studies, the children have been learning about geography and how to read maps. Recently, the children began learning about Japan and will learn about several countries and their cultures during the school year.

**4**The 4th graders are enjoying a very exciting science curriculum this year, which began with the study of the Long Island seashore. The classes have already attended two field trips. The first one was to Garvies Point Preserve and the second one was to Jones Beach, where they broke into small groups to explore the seashore ecosystem with a naturalist. In the classroom, they are learning about mollusks, the differences between the North Shore and South Shore, the great barrier beaches, erosion, high tide and low tide and the formation of shells. Stay tuned for more exhilarating topics, which include electricity and magnetism.

**5**The 5th graders have already settled into their routines and are enjoying a new and exciting curriculum. They have been studying the Western Hemisphere, as well as reviewing for the NYS Social Studies assessment scheduled for November. The students have also been discussing the relationships between prey and predator during Science. They were even lucky enough to have the experience of dissecting owl pellets in the Science lab!!! We are off to an amazing year.

**6**The last year at Shelter Rock for our sixth graders got off to a great start. To enhance their study of our "Blue Planet," they have gone on two informative (and fun) field trips. The first was a trip on the Captree Star where the children investigated different marine biomes. The second was a trip to Caumsett State Park where the children engaged in several experiments including a comparison of salt and fresh water. A new math curriculum has been introduced to the children and they appear to be enjoying it. On picture day the boys and girls wore their best Spiritwear for their class photo. There are many special memories to be made by our 6th graders as our year progresses.

## Champions for Charity®

Please support our schools!  
**REGISTER NOW!**

Americana Manhasset Champions for Charity® Holiday Benefit is **December 3,4 and 5, 2009**. Help support our organization by doing your holiday shopping at participating Americana Manhasset and Wheatley Plaza stores during these three days, when 25% of your designated pre-tax purchases will be donated back to us!

To register for your complimentary **CHAMPION CARD** or for more information, visit **championsforcharity.org**, call 800.818.6767, or visit the Americana Manhasset Concierge Store. When it's time to make a purchase, simply present your CHAMPION CARD with any form of payment, your purchases are not automatically eligible. Your CHAMPION CARD is required to allocate your donation and **MUST** be presented at the time of each purchase.

All 2009 Champions for Charity® shoppers will be eligible to win a **\$1000 Americana Manhasset Giftcard**.

## Holiday Giving

The Holiday Gift Program provides the perfect opportunity for us to reach out to others in our own community, bringing added joy to the holiday season. The program is confidential. Simply fill out a Holiday Gift Commitment form by November 10, and the Co-Chairs will contact you with a person or an entire family for whom you will purchase gifts.

Kathleen Barry [bubbabarry@verizon.net](mailto:bubbabarry@verizon.net)

Elene Farrell [jimelenefarrell@yahoo.com](mailto:jimelenefarrell@yahoo.com)



# SPECIAL EVENTS



*Three more weeks and it will begin...  
The Holiday Season we will be in!  
Please help us now so we can prepare,  
To show those in need that we care!*



*Be a gift giver this holiday season. Commitment form due November 10.*

## Box Tops [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com)

The Shelter Rock SCA participates in the Box Tops for Education Program. To date we have raised over \$3,000 for our school through the program. As in prior years, there will be a contest among the grades to see who collects the most Box Tops. The grade that collects the most Box Tops will enjoy an ice pop party at the end of the year. There will be a chart near the Main Office so the children can keep track of how their grade is doing.



## SCA Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, November 18th, 11 O'clock at North Hills Country Club. This annual event is one of two primary fundraisers for the SCA, and it is always an event that is fun for everyone who attends! Raffles, silent auction, vendors, entertainment by the Manhasset High School Jazz Vocal Choir... and the company of friends old and new make this an event not to be missed. For further information, or to volunteer, contact the luncheon chairs:

**Katie Lane** [klane210@gmail.com](mailto:klane210@gmail.com)

**Janice Rohlfling** [janicer16@yahoo.com](mailto:janicer16@yahoo.com)



## Yearbook

The 6th grade yearbook is a wonderful memento of all the years our children have spent at Shelter Rock. In addition to highlighting the 6th grade year, the book retraces kindergarten through 5th grade.



Even if you do not currently have a 6th grade student remember to take pictures of your child throughout their years at Shelter Rock not only for the memories but when they are in 6th grade someone on the yearbook committee will be in need of copies of those pictures.

## SAVE THE DATES



**NOVEMBER 17**  
**SCA FALL LUNCHEON**

11:00  
North Hills  
Country Club

**NOVEMBER 18**  
**PHOTO  
MAKE-UP  
DAY**

**DECEMBER 3, 4, 5**  
**CHAMPIONS  
FOR CHARITY**

Americana  
Manhasset

**DECEMBER 5**  
**FAMILY  
THEATER**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL  
2:00  
Munsey Park  
Auditorium

**DECEMBER 15**  
**BOARD OF ED  
PROPOSITION  
VOTE**

6:30 am - 10:00 pm  
High School Gym



ALL 2009 CHAMPIONS FOR CHARITY® SHOPPERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN A \$1000 AMERICANA MANHASSET GIFTCARD!



# SHELTER ROCKS!

PHOTO GALLERY 11/09





